

At Michael's funeral there were tears, particularly when the fire alarm sounded again in his honor. But more than sadness it was a celebration. Michael had lived a life of service to others. He put himself at risk of death every day for his fellow man. He is a man who we, while reflecting on his life, can honestly say made a difference.

What greater tribute can there be to a man than when his wife and family looked out at the huge crowd paying their respects, they may have asked themselves who in that crowd wouldn't be there today had Michael not lived. The incredible impact of saving lives has a power that far outlives the hero who makes it happen.

I'm sure some might find it trivial to pay respects to an Assistant Fire Chief from a small town in Illinois. But, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that there are few greater heroes we can praise from this noble House. I extend condolences and our thanks to the family of Michael Lehen.

COMMENDING CAPTAIN BRENT  
DAVIS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend a resident of my district who has raised the bar for personal sacrifice on behalf of others. His name is Captain Brent Davis, and he serves as the chief of public affairs for the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

What impresses me most about Capt. Davis is his desire to serve above and beyond the call of duty. Already serving his country in uniform, Capt. Davis was approached to shore up support for the C.W. Bill Young Dept. of Defense Bone Marrow Program, and he accepted the task with enthusiasm. He registered himself in the program, named for my distinguished colleague who formally served on the Armed Services Committee, and when he received word that he was a perfect match to donate marrow, he was equal to the task. With the support of his wife, Sonya, Capt. Davis went through the rigorous screening process to ensure his compatibility with the recipient, and on December 8th of last year, he successfully donated bone marrow at Georgetown University Hospital.

The recipient was a 17-year-old young man who was suffering with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer that afflicts the body's lymphatic system. A parent himself, Capt. Davis was determined to help this family. He was concerned first and foremost with the welfare of the recipient and was committed to helping him survive.

Mr. Speaker, our struggle with cancer in all its forms is one we must win. While we search for cures and effective treatments, I take comfort in the fact that there are men and women like Capt. Davis out there, volunteering and even risking their own health so that others may have hope of recovery. I commend Capt. Davis for his courage and sacrifice; he is a model citizen and exemplary officer.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the vision and achievements of Mr. Harry W. Colmery, from Topeka, Kansas.

Because of Mr. Colmery's remarkable service to our country, I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 257, calling on President Bush to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery. President Truman established the Medal of Freedom in 1945 as an honor for exceptional service in war, and President Kennedy reintroduced the Medal in 1963 for distinguished service in peacetime. Harry Colmery embodied both of these things and is deserving of this highest civilian honor.

After serving as an Army aviator in World War I, Mr. Colmery spent his civilian life actively promoting and defending the rights of America's veterans. In 1929, he was part of a coalition that worked to pass a major veterans' hospital construction bill. In 1936, he was elected National Commander of The American Legion.

In 1943, while staying in Washington's Mayflower Hotel, Harry Colmery wrote the first draft of what would later become the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the World War II GI Bill of Rights. This legislation provided historic new benefits to military veterans as they transitioned back into civilian life. Most importantly, the new educational benefit would revolutionize America's higher education system.

Since the enactment of the GI Bill, America has continuously provided educational support for our nation's veterans. Exceeding all expectations, more than two million eligible men and women went to college using these educational benefits in the decade following World War II. The result was an American workforce enriched by 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, and another million college-educated men and women.

Building upon the success of the original GI Bill, Congress subsequently approved the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 and the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program for the post-Vietnam Conflict era. Finally, in 1985, Congress passed the Montgomery GI Bill.

Awarding the Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery would be a tribute to all veterans in 2004, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the GI Bill.

HONORING PENFIELD TATE III OF  
DENVER, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize

Mr. Penfield Tate III of Denver, CO, for his outstanding career of public service and his inspiring role as father and husband. I would like to thank him on behalf of all Coloradans for the depth and diversity of contributions he has made to ensure our public life.

Before my election to Congress, I served in the Colorado House of Representatives with a number of remarkable individuals who made a difference through their legislative excellence. I also served with some legislators noted for their warm, energetic personalities. However, in my experience there are very few people as gifted—personally and professionally—as Pen Tate.

Every day I worked with him reaffirmed the ideal qualities of a public official: idealistic, caring, optimistic, intelligent and principled. Spirited in debate, Pen was, nevertheless, always a gentleman, being open-minded and respectful to everyone with whom he worked. As a state representative, state senator, and mayoral candidate he was a tireless seeker for solutions to some of Colorado's most pressing problems, and a peerless advocate for children, seniors, workers, and civil rights, causes he championed both in and out of the State Capitol.

Since ending his tenure in the Colorado Legislature, Pen has returned to his law practice in Denver. He has also been given more time to spend with his wife Faye and daughter Elleana. Although he has returned to life as a private citizen, Pen remains as dedicated to his causes today as he was during his time in the legislature. He is active in many charitable organizations and gives generously to his community.

Not surprisingly, Pen's contagious combination of effective legislator and humanitarian has inspired members of his community to award him numerous civic distinctions. His unyielding pursuit of justice and equality was recognized with the 2003 Civil Rights Award given by the Anti-Defamation League. Most recently, Pen was awarded the 2004 Father of the Year by the National Father's Day Council and the American Diabetes Association. This impressive award is only a token of appreciation to a man who dedicates so much of his time to his family. I am attaching a newspaper report of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting such an honorable person and his distinguished career in public service. My family and I wish him, his wife, Faye, and their daughter, Elleana, good health and happiness in their future together.

[From the Denver Post, June 19, 2004]

A TIP OF THE HAT TO TATE THE DAD

MAYORAL ADVISER IS ONE OF SIX MEN HONORED AS REGIONAL FATHERS OF THE YEAR

(By Erin Cox)

For Elleana Tate, daughter of Denver lawyer and former state senator Penfield Tate III, it only takes a little task for Daddy to make her happy. "Tuck me in," said 14-year-old Elleana, flashing her smile at her father. Tate, nestled next to his disabled daughter on a couch in his 27th-floor downtown Denver office, looked at her with soft eyes. "Tuck you in still?" Tate said, beaming.

Tate, partner in a Denver law firm, adviser to Mayor John Hickenlooper, winner of a 2003 Civil Rights Award and former state senator, is first and foremost a father. The National Father's Day Council and the American Diabetes Association honored him as a 2004 Father of the Year, along with five